

File with 1833 letters?

Waukeesa Wisconsin Sep 10. 1869

Mr Wm Lloyd Garrison

50

Dear Sir Some months since the public were informed that you was preparing for publication a history of the modern Anti Slavery Reformation in our Country -

I have been on the point of "writing up" a few items of the early Anti Slavery Movement in Central New York & sending it to you, but pressing duties have thus far prevented -

A few days since, in looking over an old file of manuscript papers I found a copy of the Constitution of the first Anti Slavery Society organised in the State of New York with the names of its first officers appended - This was the Anti Slavery Soc. formed at Oneida Institute in Whitesboro - As presiding officer of that Society for several years I know the facts of which I speak - Many of the young men who took that early stand against oppression never lived to see the abolition of that vile system - More than one half the officers on that first Board, have slept the sleep of death -

The date of our organisation was early in the Summer of 1833 - A copy of our Constitution is before me as sent for publication in the Emancipator, & is as follows -

"Oneida Institute Oct 25-1833"

Preamble & Constitution of the Anti Slavery Socy of Oneida Institute.

Whereas this nation contrary to the commands of God & every principle of justice & humanity now hold in bondage more than 2,000,000 of human beings;

Whereas we believe it to be both right & expedient that they should be immediately emancipated & placed in full possession of those rights which are set forth in the declaration of our Independence as the inalienable rights of all men;

Washington Dec 10 1833

Mr. Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Dear Sir, I have been the more the further I am
informed that you are preparing for publication a history of
the movement for the abolition of slavery in our country -
I have been on the point of writing up a few lines of the
early Anti Slavery Movement in England but I conclude it
to you, but I believe they have been for preservation -
A few days since, in looking over an old file of newspapers
I found a copy of the Constitution of the first Anti Slavery
Society organized in the State of New York with the names of
its first officers appended - This was the Anti Slavery Socy
formed at Oneida July 1st 1832 - The preceding
officer of that Society for several years I know the fact of
which I speak - Many of the names were also taken that
early stood against oppression - Now I wish to see the relation
of that Socy to you - There then was half the officers on
that first board, have left the ship of state
The date of our organization was early in the summer of
1833 - A copy of our Constitution is before me as sent
for publication in the Commonwealth, it is as follows -
"Oneida Anti Slavery Socy Dec 22 1833"
Present a Constitution of the Anti Slavery Socy of Oneida Anti
Slavery Socy. Whereas we have no other way to the common
of God & every fair child of justice & humanity, we have in
our charge those who have been & are to be oppressed, that
We deem our duty to be to seek their relief & redemption, that
They should be immediately emancipated & placed in full
possession of those rights which are not forth in the Constitution
of our Republic as the inalienable rights of all men

Whereas we believe that the doing of this so far from endangering the lawful property & lives of our Southern Brethren is absolutely necessary for the preservation of both; Whereas we believe that the scheme of expatriation now in operation ostensibly for the removal of the free people of color instead of having a favorable influence against the institution of Slavery, strongly tends to perpetuate it; and Whereas we believe that no scheme of expatriation either voluntary or compulsory can be adequate to the extinction of this evil; We resolve to form ourselves into a Society to be governed by the following Constitution

Art. 1st This Society shall be called the Anti Slavery Society of Oneida Institute -

Art. 2^d The object of this Society shall be to endeavor by all means sanctioned by Law, Humanity & Religion to effect the immediate abolition of Slavery in the United States without expatriation, to improve the Character & condition of the Free People of Color, to inform & correct public opinion in relation to their situation & rights & obtain for them civil & political rights & privileges equal with those of the whites -

The remaining articles relate to the Election of officers their duties &c. -

Officers of this Society

The following were the original

President

Hiram Fote

V. Pres^t

Amos M. Stone

Cor. Sec.

Isaac B. Bradley

Rec. Sec.

Amnon Gaston

Treas

Benjamin Weber

Chauncey J. Gaston

Philander Barton

William Smith

Henry H. Loomis &

Amos L. Hollister

To this Constitution were appended the names of between forty & fifty students about one half

the number in attendance at the Institution

Our Soc. was formed some time before Beech Green began on Pres^t

Directors

We are in favor of the doing of this as far from endangering the
 least property & loss of an American citizen as absolutely necessary
 in the preservation of life. We are in favor that the scheme of
 expatriation be in operation as early as possible for the removal of the free
 people of color instead of having a favorable influence against
 the institution of slavery through their to perpetrate it, and
 we are in favor that an scheme of expatriation is the voluntary
 one which can be adopted to the extraction of this evil.
 We resolve to form ourselves into a society to be governed
 by the following constitution

Art. 1. The society shall be called the Anti Slavery
 Society of America.

Art. 2. The object of this society shall be to endeavor to
 all means necessary to law, humanity & religion to
 effect the immediate abolition of slavery in the United
 States without expatriation, to improve the character &
 condition of the free people of color, to inform & correct
 public opinion in relation to their situation & rights & obtain
 for them civil & political rights & privileges equal with
 those of the white.

The remaining articles relate to the election of officers
 their duties &c.
 The following were the original
 officers of this society

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| William Lloyd
Henry M. Foster
William Smith
William Parker
Thomas J. Foster
The members of the Association | Benjamin Webb
Thomas Foster
Isaac B. Woodbury
James M. Store
William Foster | James
Wm. J.
Wm. J.
Wm. J.
Wm. J.
Wm. J. |
|---|---|---|

I send you Friend Garrison this leaf floating down on the stream of the past - It may appear of little value to yourself, but to the few survivors of that little Band of early pioneers who did picket duty with scarcely none in church or state to cheer them forward, it is among the most precious reminiscences of our lives - They honored me with the Presidency of the Society as having been the first student at the Oneida Institute to embrace the abolition doctrine, & I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to you as the one who by your early writings led me to embrace the truth - That first Report of the New England Anti Slavery Society with the few numbers of the Liberator in the spring of 1833, ^{sent to our Reading Room} all the production of your pen made me an Abolitionist - A public debate in the open air in the month of June of that year in which I stood alone for immediate emancipation against some of the best debaters of that school, won to my side one half the students of that Institution - When we formed our Society we could learn of but one Anti Slavery Society out of New England - That was at the Western Reserve College, Hudson Ohio - Theodore D. Weld one of our noblest students was then traveling & lecturing in the South West - It greatly strengthened my heart & increased my zeal, when I learned that he too had embraced the abolition doctrine - To Mr Weld with whom I occasionally correspond I beg leave to refer you in testimony of my own character & standing - I have never met you, for with a ministerial charge & a rising family, I have never been able to attend the great Anti Slavery gatherings of the last thirty years - I studied theology at Oberlin & since 1838 as a Congregational Minister I have endeavored to mould the western churches & communities with the gospel of Christ which is a gospel of humanity - For more than 25 years my fields of labor have been in Racine, Janesville & this place, Wisconsin In the final overthrow of Slavery I was called like many others to lay a dear son on the altar - But the sacrifice has not been in vain -

I send you friend Garrison this leaf floating down on the
stream of the West - It may appear of little value to yourself,
but to the few survivors of that little band of early pioneers who
did fight close with slavery here in almost a state to clear them
forward, it is among the best forerunners of the success of our cause -
They learned me with the liberality of the South in having them
the first student at the Ohio Institute to receive the abolition
lecture & I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to you as
the one who by your early writings led me to know the truth -
That first report of the New England Anti Slavery Society with the few
members of the Institute in the spring of 1833, all the foundation
of your new work here in Ohio - It holds debate
in the open air in the heart of fear of that year in which
I stood close for in meeting & conversation against some of
the best students of that school, now to my mind are half the
students of that institution - After an absence of nearly
an entire term of but one Anti Slavery Society out of New England -
That was at the Western Brown College, Andover Ohio -
Andover the first one of our student students was then traveling &
lecturing in the South West - It greatly strengthened my
heart & increased my zeal, then I learned that he too had
embraced the abolition doctrine - So the battle with them
I recurrently corresponded & try now to refer you a testimony
of my own character & standing - I have seen that you for
with a ministerial change & a rising family I have seen for
able to attend the great Anti Slavery gatherings of the last
three years - I studied theology at Andover & since 1838
as a Congregational minister I have endeavored to make the
Western Church a co-operation with the people of Christ who
is a people of Americans - For now there is no more
of labor here, for a African, Jew, Gentile & the whole human
in the first morning of slavery I was called to many others to say
them on the altar - But the sacrifice has been a heavy one

Pardon me my dear Sir for obtruding myself ^{upon you notice} with these little
items of ~~early~~ Anti Slavery history so intimately connected
with myself - I thought it might cheer you with the
thought that your early writings kindled the watch fires on that
altar in Central New York which soon resulted in the formation
of the New York State Anti Slavery Soc. & sent the regenerating
influences over most of the northern States -

There are many peculiarly interesting incidents of those
early times which will soon be lost in oblivion for those of us
who were actors will have passed away -

Perhaps at some future day I may note some of them
down, & send you - In the mean time permit me
subscribe myself

Your old convert & friend

William Doote

If this reaches you I should deeply love to receive a
line from you -

